

River to the Sea Bikeway

The River to the Sea Bikeway (WMPO Bicycle Route 1) is an 11-mile, on- and off-road bicycle route that follows the Historic Beach Car Line, which carried vacationers from downtown Wilmington to Wrightsville Beach by trolley. The bikeway is comprised of neighborhood residential streets, off-road multi-use paths, and a few busy arterial roadways.

It begins at the foot of Market Street at the Riverwalk, with the Battleship USS North Carolina visible across the Cape Fear River. The bikeway then traverses the Old Wilmington, Bottom and Forest Hills neighborhoods before crossing Independence Boulevard and passing by Empie Park. From Empie Park to South Kerr Avenue, the bikeway follows Park Avenue, a quiet local street that passes by Audubon Station.

After merging with Peachtree Avenue and crossing South College Road, the bikeway briefly hops onto Pine Grove Drive before joining up with Park Avenue again. Between Wallace Avenue and 52nd Street, the bikeway utilizes an off-road path, with a spur to the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (WMPO Bicycle Route 1A) via Wood Dale Drive. Between 52nd Street and Hinton Avenue, the bikeway follows on-road bicycle lanes on Park Avenue. Beyond Greenville Avenue, the ride is much more uncomfortable for recreational cyclists. Oleander Drive and Wrightsville Avenue are busy arterial roadways with few bicycle facilities and high-speed traffic, and there are several bridges to cross. This section is not recommended for recreational cyclists. See insets 3 and 4 on map.

Annual River to the Sea Bike Ride

First Saturday in May

On the first Saturday in May of every year is the River to Sea Bike Ride. In the recent years, over 200 people have met downtown and participated in a casual paced ride to Wrightsville Beach. All riders are welcome to join. Helmets required. No fee to participate. Police support along the way. Snacks and prizes are provided at Wrightsville Beach. For more information visit: www.rivertoseabikeway.com

Ride to the Farmers' Market

May-December

The community setting and social atmosphere promote quality of life while offering a venue for local growers to offer their produce. Markets featuring local farmers, producers, artists and crafters. Products include fresh fruits and berries, vegetables, plants, herbs, flowers, eggs, cheeses, meats, seafood, honey, baked goods, legumes, pickled items, jams and jellies, wine, arts, crafts, and more.

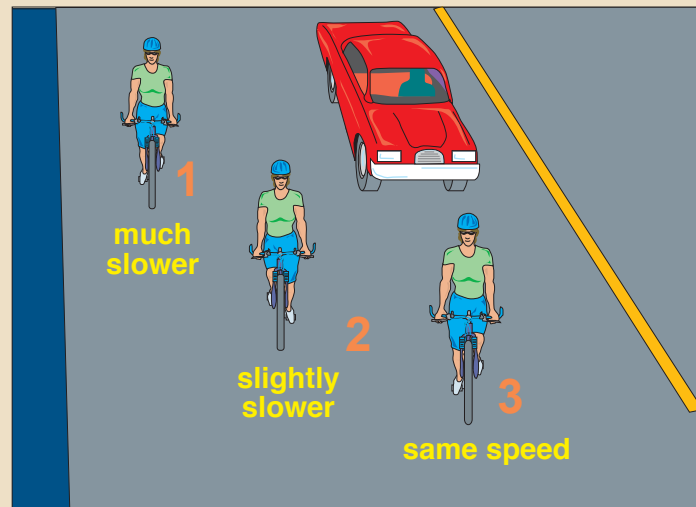
 **Wilmington Riverfront Farmers' Market**
May-December
Location: Riverfront Park

 **Wrightsville Beach Farmers' Market**
May-September
Location: Old Causeway Drive

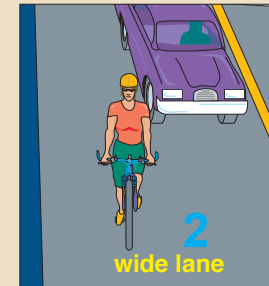
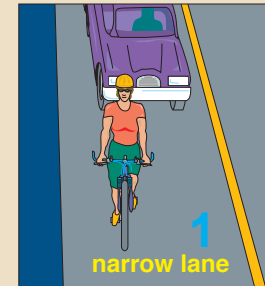
Basic Traffic Riding Techniques

Riding confidently and skillfully in traffic takes practice and an understanding of some basic ideas. One of the most important ideas is road position. Just where you ride on the roadway depends on several important things: your speed, the width and condition of the road, and your destination.

- 1 When everyone else is going a lot faster than you, keep well to the right.
- 2 When they're going a little faster, ride near traffic. This encourages right-turners to slow and wait instead of passing at the last moment and cutting you off.
- 3 When they're going the same speed as you, ride in the line of traffic. This is your most visible position and ensures you'll be where drivers look for traffic. There's no reason to ride fast near the curb and a lot of good reasons not to.



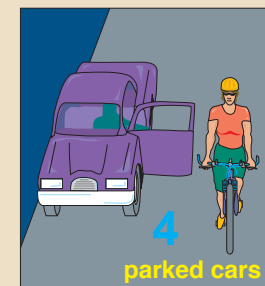
- 1 On a road with very narrow lanes, ride far enough from the edge to discourage dangerously close passing.



- 2 On a road with wide traffic lanes, ride just to the right of the traffic stream. This allows easy passing but reduces the danger caused by turning or crossing traffic.

- 3 On a road with gravel, debris, or potholes on the right side, ride on the smooth pavement to the left of them.

- 4 Always ride a good door's width from parked cars. Also be aware of cars backing out from driveways.



Bike = Vehicle

In North Carolina, your bicycle is a vehicle and you are its driver. You share the rights and the duties with all other drivers as you use the State's roadway network.

Follow the Road Rules



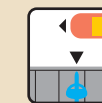
- 1 Ride on the right side of the road, going with the flow of traffic.



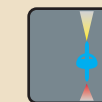
- 2 Obey all traffic controls — like stop signs, traffic lights, and one-way signs.



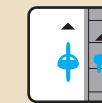
- 3 Signal whenever you intend to turn, merge to another road position, or stop.



- 4 Yield the right-of-way whenever you enter the road or when you change lanes or road position.



- 5 Use a good set of lights and reflectors whenever you ride after dark.



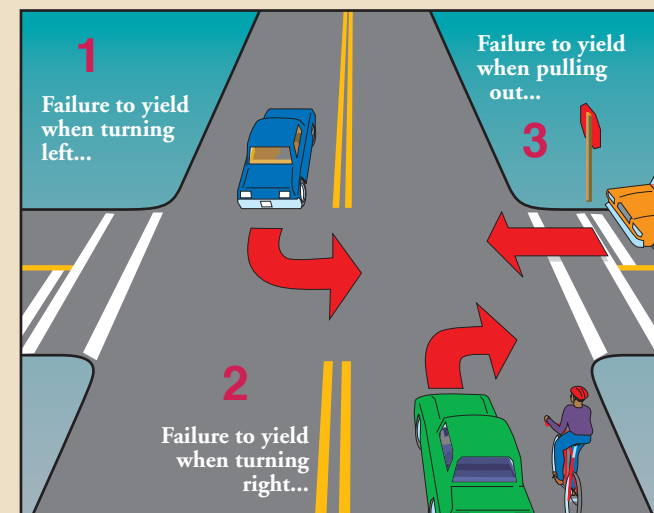
- 6 Don't ride your bike on sidewalks and treat pedestrians with respect.

Basic Traffic Riding Techniques, Watch for Motorists Error, Ride Defensively, and Bike = Vehicle articles and illustrations courtesy of NCDOT.

Watch for Motorist Errors

Drivers often do things that endanger bicyclists, usually without intending to. Knowing what to look for can help you navigate through traffic more safely. Ride predictably and in a visible location. Keep your eyes open for the following mistakes and be ready to take evasive action!

- 1 Watch motorists coming towards you who might turn left. Pay particular attention to their road position and, of course any turn signals.
- 2 Keep an eye on the motorist coming up on your left who might turn right. Listen for hints that the car might be slowing down.
- 3 Watch for movement that could indicate a car is coming out of a driveway or side street.



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Visit www.rivertoseabikeway.com for more information.